

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE
PROPERTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29)**

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Centre Wellington intends to designate the property municipally known as 8076 Wellington Road 19, in the Township of Centre Wellington (Township of West Garafraxa), as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, (Ch.O.18, Sec. 29).

Description of Historic Place:

The subject 0.81 hectare (2 acre) property is located at 8076 Wellington Road 19 and is a rural residential property, formerly part of a larger farm parcel, located in what was historically known as West Garafraxa, Concession 1, Part of Lot 8, now Township of Centre Wellington. The property contains a two-storey stone house which faces in a south-east direction, along Wellington Road 19.

Images of Property:



Image 1: Front façade, 2025, MHBC



Image 2: Front façade, 1890, Wellington County Museum and Archives

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The cultural heritage value of 8076 Wellington Road 19 resides in its design/physical value, its historical/associative value, and its contextual value.

The property has physical design value as it includes a dwelling at 8076 Wellington Road 19, c.1890, which is a representative example of a two storey Italianate stone dwelling. The stone walls are representative of the use of local materials, with the fieldstone likely derived from the property and the limestone from one of the many nearby quarries. The cut limestone is surrounded by delicate tuck pointing (white ribboning) on the front façade and combined limestone and fieldstone complimented by tuck pointing on all other facades reflective of stone architecture in the area. An early one-storey stone addition, likely a former summer kitchen, exists on the north-east facing façade with large segmented arch windows, mimicking those of the main house. A one-storey, brick addition replaced a former porch on the south-west facing façade. The dwelling also features other Italianate design attributes, including a large, hip roof with overhanging eaves and paired brackets (corbels), and one remaining brick chimney on the rear wing, paired narrow one-over-one segmental arch windows and an asymmetrical front façade with the left wing

recessed from the balance to allow for a covered two-storey verandah, with columns and decorative woodwork.

The property is significant for its direct association with early Fergus settlers, specifically the Skeoch family and Margaret Davidson. The owners of the property when the dwelling was built were the Skeoch family, originally from Scotland, who owned the property for approximately 140 years, from 1872 to 2012 and continue to reside on the property. Born in 1834, James Skeoch immigrated to Canada in 1844 and worked with his grandfather at Watt's General Store on Provost Ln. (Fergus). James married Margaret Davidson in 1857 and they had 9 children. Margaret was a member of one of the earliest pioneering families in the Fergus area, emigrating from Scotland in 1835, and was one of the first pupils to attend a log schoolhouse in the village where James McQueen taught.

She was highly regarded in the community and is captured in several early photos of the property. She lived to the age of 94 and was described in local newspapers as "one of the last original pioneers of Fergus". She is noted in local histories including *Fergus: The Story of a Little Town* by Hugh Templin printed in 1933. It was clear that she was highly regarded for her intelligence and contributions. She was the matriarch of the Skeoch family and lived in the home until her death in 1925. The property is also associated with James Skeoch (Jr) who was a Reeve for Wellington County in 1927-1928 and Bruce Skeoch was one of the last Trustees of the West Garafraxa No.2 School. The Skeoch Farm has been identified as one of West Garafraxa's Century Farms. It has been occupied by the Skeoch Family since 1872 to the present day.

The property is historically linked to the surrounding area relative to other Skeoch properties and Margaret (Davidson) Skeoch's association with the settlement of Fergus and surrounding area.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The property has cultural heritage value for its representation of Italianate architecture reflective by the following attributes:

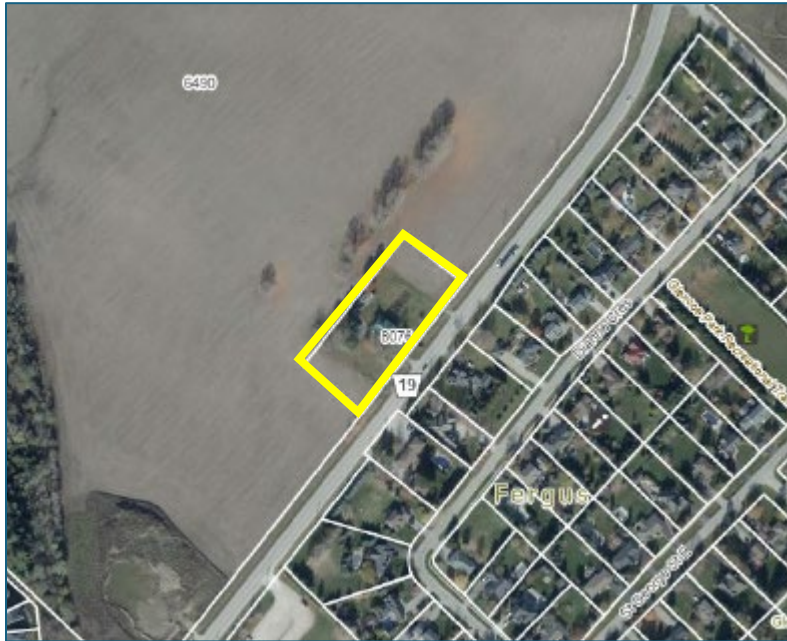
- Height, scale and massing of the original two-storey stone dwelling, including one-storey rear stone addition on the north-east side of the rear facade
- Cut limestone and fieldstone construction and materials, including tuck pointing (ribboning) on the front façade and two side elevations
- Fenestration pattern of doors and windows in their original location
- Wooden front door, including limestone voussoirs, transom window and glass
- Limestone voussoirs on all windows with pointed keystones and extended voussoirs on the front façade paired windows
- Original two-storey verandah with squared wooden columns and beveled corners, decorative fretwork and railing on the second storey
- The pitch of the large hip roof and its generous overhanging eaves
- Wood soffit and paired brackets
- Original remaining brick chimney along rear elevation
- The open space between the façade of the dwelling and Wellington Road 19

Excluded from the Heritage Attributes

- Rear brick (west) and wood siding (east) additions
- Two outbuildings (garages)

For further information with respect to the proposed designation please contact Deanna Maiden, Senior Development Planner at (519) 846-9691, ext. 292.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts, may be served to the Clerk of the Township of Centre Wellington on or before July 30, 2026.



Dated at the Township of Centre Wellington this 30th day of June, 2026.

Tyler Sager, Clerk
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Elora, Ontario
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